THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director
SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
Director of Opera
OLIVER MEARS

MAMI
WATA

Pegasus Opera Company in association with The Royal Opera presents Mami Wata

Director TD MOYO
Choreography MONIQUE JONAS
Lighting designer BEN ROLLS

SATURDAY 17 JULY 2021 AT 7.30PM

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

The performance will last approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. There is no interval.

WELCOME

We are thrilled to be welcoming back audiences into beautiful theatre and to do so with such a powerful programme of music by trailblazing composers as part of the Engender Festival.

We are excited to share our stage with Pegasus Opera, an organisation who are such strong advocates for diversity in music. Alison Buchanan, Artistic Director of Pegasus Opera, has curated Mami Wata bringing together a host of composers and performers new to our stage. We welcome back TD. Moyo following her work on Knife of Dawn to direct the evening.

Mami Wata illuminates rich and varied works from a range of established composers, British composers Bushra El-Turk and Errollyn Wallen, alongside music by Nkeiru Okoye, Lettie Beckon Alston, Dorothy Rudd Moore and Nahla Mattar, including UK premieres.

The concert connects these diasporic voices within the unifying theme of water, which symbolizes movement, journeys, rebirth and freedom. For centuries, women have been linked with water in art and literature. But the illustrious African spirit Mami Wata has been a culturally significant representation of Black women in water for thousands of years and is the earliest Black mermaid found in widespread creation myths across West Africa.

Pegasus Opera present this concert in association with The Royal Opera, continuing their work to champion diverse artists in opera. 2022 sees the celebration of 30 years of Pegasus Opera Company celebrating the rich diversity the UK enjoys.

We hope the return of live performance from these incredible artists will leave you moved and energised.

OLIVER MEARS
Director of Opera, The Royal Opera

KATE WYATT
Creative Producer, The Royal Opera

ALISON BUCHANAN
Artistic Director, Pegasus Opera

SAFETY INFORMATION

We want to welcome you back into the building in a way that keeps you, our staff and our artists safe. All visitors must wear a face-covering over their nose and mouth unless exempt for medical reasons. Staff will be wearing face-coverings at all times.

There is a one-way system in place. Visitors with tickets can enter via Bow Street. Regular cleaning is taking place, with particular attention to high-touch areas such as bannisters and toilets. Hand gel will be available throughout the building.
CAST
Soprano ALISON BUCHANAN
Soprano APRIL KOYEJO-AUDIGER
Mezzo-soprano SIMONE IBBETT-BROWN
Mezzo-soprano CAMILLE MAALAWY
Tenor RONALD SAMM
Baritone MIKEL SYLVANUS
Dancer MONIQUE JONAS
Piano KAMILLA ARKU
First violin SARAH DARAMY-WILLIAMS
Second violin HAZEL CORREA
Viola NATALIE TAYLOR
Cello DAVINA SHUM

PROGRAMME
THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF RIVERS
Music MARGARET BONDS
Text LANGSTON HUGHES

‘OH YEMANJA’ (MOTHER’S PRAYER)
From the opera Scourge of Hyacinths, based on a radio play by Wole Soyinka
Music TANIA LEON

SONG CYCLE ON COLLOQUIAL ARABIC, op.10 No.4
Music NAHLA MATTAR
‘Sebha – Rosemary’
‘Soot – A Sound’
‘Salem – Ladder’
‘Dahraga – Rolling Over’

‘GURU’
From are you worried about the rising cost of funerals? five simple songs
Music and text ERROLLYN WALLEN

‘CRÈME BRÛLÉE ON A TREE’
Music BUSHRA EL TURK

THREE DREAM PORTRAITS
Music MARGARET BONDS
Text LANGSTON HUGHES
‘Minstrel Man’
‘Dream Variations’
‘I, Too’

DEGENERATE WORKS
Music LETTIE BECKON ALSTON
Text MATSUO BASKO
‘Summer Voices’
‘Harvest Moon’
‘Bell Tones’
‘The Unknown Flower’

FROM THE DARK TOWER
Music DOROTHY RUDD MOORE
‘Old Black Men’
Text GEORGIA DOUGLAS JOHNSON

‘Willow Bend and Weep’
Text HERBERT CLARKE JOHNSON
‘From the Dark Tower’
Text COUNTEE CULLEN

From HARRIET TUBMAN: WHEN I CROSSED THAT LINE TO FREEDOM
Music and text NKEIRU OKOYE
‘Nothing but the grave’
‘I am Moses, the liberator’

PRODUCTION CREDITS
Artistic Director, Pegasus Opera Company ALISON BUCHANAN
Video editor FEMI JOHNSON
Producer, Pegasus Opera Company JORDAN MULLINEAUX FRSA
Stage manager KATIE THACKERAY

PRODUCTION INFORMATION
This production has been rehearsed, staged, and performed within strict COVID-safe conditions. To ensure the safety of artists and creative teams, and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, mitigations have included maintaining social distancing in the rehearsal studio, wearing face-coverings and regular testing for all involved. Testing has been administered privately and at no expense to the NHS. Scenes that are particularly physical or that involve closer proximity have been minimised, risk-assessed and rehearsed only on stage.

THE ROYAL OPERA
Patron HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES
Music Director SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS
Director of Casting PETER MARIO KATONA
Administrative Director CORMAC SIMMS
Creative producer KATE WYATT
Producer RACHEL CACCIA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE RECOVERY CAMPAIGN
Live performance is a shared experience, and our audiences are at the heart of what we do on our stages, backstage, online, in cinemas and in our communities. Since March 2020 we have lost £3 in every £5 of our income and we are hugely grateful for all the support we have received, including from Arts Council England and government, and from you, our generous audiences.

Last September we launched our fundraising Recovery Campaign, which continues to form a vital part of our long journey back to a fully functioning and sustainable theatre.

Please consider making a donation to help us secure the future of ballet and opera.

roh.org.uk/donate